

Determining how best for Wichita to grow over the next 20 years -

HANDOUT QUESTION: How best for Wichita to grow? Rank the following three Wichita growth areas according to which you think **best** supports the future growth, prosperity and quality of life of our community (1=best, 2=second best, 3=third best) (68 total responses)

Rank			
1	Established Urban Core	59% best	37% 2 nd best 4% 3 rd best
2	Downtown	34% best	54% 2 nd best 12% 3 rd best
3	Suburbs	7% best	9% 2 nd best 84% 3 rd best

General Thoughts and Comments Submitted

Recurring Comments/Themes:

- Focus growth and infrastructure reinvestment within the established urban core and the downtown – encourage infill development
- A strong downtown is important to our community and will help attract/retain younger people
- Slow spending on suburban growth – it is financially unsustainable
- Investment in a more effective public transit system is important to the future of our community
- Need to maintain and improve our existing water, sewer and local road infrastructure assets – a new central library and securing a long-term water supply are also top priorities

Unique Insights/Ideas:

- Current redevelopment projects are too modest – our city needs to be more dense
- Let the market determine future growth areas
- Keep taxes low to encourage people to stay in our community
- New growth won't solve our current infrastructure maintenance and replacement problems
- Consider artificial turf requirements in new home green spaces – prohibit planting of fescue grasses in new home construction areas
- Eliminate the use of special assessment financing tools to fund new development – costs of new streets and utilities should be included in the initial purchase cost of the lot/home
- Combine city and county public safety services
- Need to improve USD 259 schools in order to attract young families in the urban core
- Quality of life investments are needed to retain and attract new jobs, businesses and people to our community
- Public transit allows some people in our community to keep their jobs

Creating an effective infrastructure investment decision-making process for the long-term -

BOARD QUESTION: Please list important criteria that you would like elected officials to consider as they make future community infrastructure spending and cost-reduction decisions.

Recurring Comments/Themes:

- Future economic growth and job creation within our community
- Quality of life investments that will retain/attract young professionals and a strong workforce – advancing community quality of life in order to promote economic development
- Investments that will support and improve public transit in our community

Unique Insights/Ideas:

- Consideration must be given to private sector development plans
- Wichita has to be a place people want to live – then the jobs will come
- Alternative transportation investments (transit, bicycle and pedestrian) are important – 1/3 of Wichita does not drive
- Priority area for investment needs to be the urban core – it will help the most people and fix what we already have
- Investments that will complement and support WSU efforts to bring new jobs to our community



April 2014 Community Open House Meetings (April 14, 16, 21, 28)

Summary of Feedback Received*

Total Attendance - 97 people

BOARD QUESTION: *What thoughts and comments do you have?*

Recurring Comments/Themes:

- Take care of basic infrastructure needs first – maintain what we have
- Investments in libraries are key to quality of community life
- A vibrant downtown and urban core is important
- Public transit improvements need to be a priority for our community

Unique Insights/Ideas:

- Explore the development of local food systems as a way to stimulate economic development – vacant lands in the urban core could be used for local food production
- Privatize the public transit system
- Consider medical marijuana as way to raise revenues
- Super high-speed municipal internet is needed to support future business growth and educational development